



THE WINDOW

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, North Carolina

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December 15, 2021

No. 19

The Changing Face of First Baptist Church

Have you noticed it?

It happens. It needs to happen. If it doesn't happen a congregation will simply die. I am encouraged and I am ever so curious about the future of First Baptist Ahoskie.

The face of our congregation is changing. We are beginning to look considerably different than we did, at least, since my arrival in 2017. On the one hand, we have lost a lot of people. We have lost people to death and to relocation. Fortunately, we have lost very few people to other churches. People who join First Baptist most often stay with First Baptist. On the other hand, and thanks be to God, new people now participate in the life of our church. It is not uncommon for someone new to join our church via profession of faith or transfer of letter at the conclusion of Sunday morning worship. While we do not have someone join every Sunday, there are stretches of three or four weeks in a row where we accept new members. The reception of new members indicates that we are a healthy congregation. I must admit that I am sometimes surprised at the frequency with which we have people join our church due to the overall decline of the church in America and our increasingly secular society. Again, thanks be to God!

So, what is the source(s) of our recent changing face? While we mourn the closure of the Methodist church and the Presbyterian church, here in Ahoskie, we are thrilled that a sizeable handful of those folks now worship with us. Some have officially joined our church, others are making plans to do so, and others will probably wait a while before they join if they join at all. It matters not, these people are a part of our changing face.


Thanks be to God!

We now have Chowan students who worship with us on a regular basis. One of them, Brayden Conboy, joined the church! This may be a first as no one can remember a Chowan student joining our church in the past. The college students add life to our congregation. It felt different last Sunday as the students are now on Christmas break and, therefore, were not with us. Thanks be to God for our Chowan students!

We also have people from the Ahoskie community that are new to our church. We welcomed Ashlee Perry to our congregation recently. And word has it that another family might join our church soon. In addition to these people, we have other families who are regular participants in worship with us. Thanks be to God!

Indeed, the face of our church is changing. For congregations to survive and thrive generation after generation, this must occur. Have you noticed it?

In Christ,
Paul R. Gilliam III



Worshiping Together
December 19, 2021
11:00 AM

The Curiosity of the Shepherds
Luke 2:1-21
Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Music Friends (Age 3 - K) sing for worship.

Church Offices Closed
for New Year's Holiday
Friday, December 31, 2021

Annual Christmas Cantata



Immanuel—*God with Us*

Sunday, December 19th | 6:00 PM



A homemade Christmas cookie fellowship will follow the evening Cantata service. You're invited to bring a batch of your favorite cookies.

From the Associate Pastor

Sometimes the simplest things make the biggest difference. I was reminded of this truth recently during a conversation with a long-time friend.

“Samuel” shared that he had not been part of a church for several years after leaving the church where he was not only a member but held leadership positions. His departure was the result of continuous church conflict. After talking about how frustrating and disillusioning church conflict can be, I asked if he had visited any other churches. He responded, “ No, I’ve just been taking a break.” What he shared next surprised me.

Samuel said, “I’ve lived in this town for eighteen years, and in all that time I can count on one hand the number of times someone invited me to their church.” I responded, “Surely you’re exaggerating.” But he wasn’t. He said he just couldn’t understand why, if church is so important, members don’t invite people to their church. Why, indeed!

I wonder how many people in the Ahsoskie area have never been invited to worship with us? Sometimes just a simple invitation is all it takes to help someone walk through the doors of our church building. That conversation has me more determined to invite folks to come and check out the ministries of FBC Ahsoskie. I invite you to join me in this effort.

Grace & peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anita'.

Adult Bible Study & Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 15th | 6 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

Please join us for our final Adult Bible Study & Soup Supper of 2021. The menu is—Chicken and rice soup, potato soup, vegetable beef soup, crackers, Christmas cookies, coffee, and water.

Wedding Congratulations

Miles Harrell and Victoria Polston were married on November 27th in Nashville, NC.



John Alexander and Becca Rowland were married on December 11th at FBCA.

Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

This free meal is for anyone who would like to join in good fellowship and food on Christmas Day.

All of our food responsibilities have been fulfilled. Thank you, church! Please have all food in the church kitchen by 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. It may be delivered prior to that day if needed. If you'd like to volunteer, come anytime between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

Stewardship Statement

December 12, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 9,010.43
Difference	\$ 254.71
YTD Needs	\$ 437,786.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 421,546.31
YTD Difference	\$ -16,239.69
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 2,025.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 45.00
Global Missions Total	\$ 1,754.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sundays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chair Music Ensemble (Resumes Jan. 9th) 	<p>Mondays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PM Staff Mtg • 5:45-6:45 PM Girl Scouts Mtg 		<p>Wednesdays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6 PM Youth Group (Gr. 6-12) • 6 PM Adult Bible Study • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble 		<p>Fridays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) 	<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM Garden Club 	<p>6</p>  <p>Bland Baker's 27th Staff Anniversary</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p>  <p>Deacon Ordination</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 PM Missions Committee 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Building & Grounds Mtg 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Deacon's Mtg 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>					

January Birthdays

1 Jeanne Benthall
 1 Virginia Chitty
 1 Peyton Outlaw
 4 Lauren Harrell
 5 Stephen Rose
 6 John Boyd
 6 Betsy McSwain

7 Rosa Swain
 8 Bennett Pierce
 8 Lou Wilson
 9 Mollie Britton
 17 Bonnie Revelle
 19 Matty Grace Gilliam
 20 Jack Britt

20 Debbie Rawls
 21 Tony Bracy
 24 Bess Leary
 25 Elizabeth Craft
 25 Erik Kirksey
 26 Beverly Bazemore
 26 Jerri Harrell

26 Dana Wiggins
 27 Malcolm Copeland
 27 Chris Slachta
 27 Isabella Woodard
 31 Lilton Umphlett

If we have neglected to acknowledge a birthday, please let us know by calling the church office.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Dec. 19 - 25, 2021

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061
anita@fbcahoskie.org

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

Childcare During Worship - December 19

Babies: Judy H. Pierce & Cheryl Slachta
Ages 1 & 2: Alex & Sarah Grace Britton
Ages 3-5: Avery & Harriet Byrum

Ushers - December 19

Andy Woodard, Isabella Woodard, Lanie Byrum,
Lee Byrum, Heath Britt, Alex Britton

Sound System Operator - December 19

Josh Brinkley

Security Monitor - December 19

Brian Outlaw

Floral Offering - December 19

Worship Decorating Committee

Home Delivered Meals - December 20

Closed for Christmas Holiday

Food Pantry - December 24

Closed for Christmas Holiday

Week of Dec. 26, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III, 398-7321
paulrgilliam@fbcahoskie.org

Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104
Jim Wiggins, 287-9790

Childcare During Worship - December 26

Babies: Debbie & Keith Rawls
Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Green
Ages 3-5: Jessica, Josh & Lily Ann Brinkley

Ushers - December 26

Kay Byrd, Sophia Byrd, Josh Brinkley,
Lily Ann Brinkley, Doug Cobbs, J. C. Doughtie

Sound System Operator - December 26

Frank Britt

Security Monitor - December 26

Brent Pierce

Floral Offering - December 26

Worship Decorating Committee

Home Delivered Meals - December 27

Closed for Christmas Holiday

Food Pantry - December 31

Closed for New Year's Holiday